

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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My Fellow Alaskans:

When we think of transportation in Alaska, we think of vast distances and difficult terrain. We also think of ways to travel: by car or bus, plane, train, ferry, boat, bicycle, snow machine, and on foot. What is the best way to provide the kind of transportation system that you as our customers need? What investments best meet your transportation needs? What kind of transportation system do we want in Alaska 25 years from now?

We asked you these questions when we began the process for updating our Statewide Transportation Plan, *Vision: 2020*. We began the process by updating the public involvement procedures we use for developing the Plan and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). We have incorporated many of your ideas about how you want to provide your ideas to the department into the new procedures.

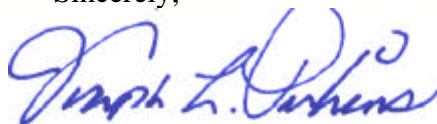
After that, we solicited your comments on policies to guide transportation system development into this new century. The draft plan presented policies that resulted from incorporating many of your comments as well as ideas gained from extensive technical analysis. We have provided those technical analyses in Section Two of *Vision: 2020* as background information for your review as well. You'll find there a history of transportation in Alaska, an extensive description of our current transportation system in the state, socio-economic and demographic projections, an analysis of transportation funding and investment, as well as analyses of the primary transportation issues challenging us today. In Section Three, you'll find all the public comments on policy issues that we've received since the plan update process began.

The primary purpose of this plan is to set the direction for Alaska's 21st century transportation system in line with our department's commitment to you as embodied in our mission statement:

The mission of the department is to improve the quality of life for Alaskans by cost-effectively providing, operating and maintaining safe, environmentally sound and reliable transportation systems and public facilities. Special emphasis will be given to utilizing meaningful public involvement and creating working partnership with other entities.

The plan is now final. Together we can create a transportation system that best serves Alaska for the present and the future. Please continue to tell us what you think. We're still listening.

Sincerely,



Joseph L. Perkins, P.E.
Commissioner